

The Norwegian-Americans

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tures " of Indian life out of statistics and solemnified jargon. The reader who hopes to find a strong sense of Indian life in today's America is better advised to look for it in such writers as Hal Borland, Frank Waters, N. Scott Momaday, and even Ken Kesey than in a collection like *The Modern Sioux*. Research, no matter how earnest, is no substitute for insight, no matter how "romantic."

—Norman Hane
Drake University

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The Norwegian-Americans, by Arlow W. Andersen. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1975. pp. 274. \$8.95.

Early in July, 1825, the tiny sloop *Restauration* sailed from Stavanger with a small group of Norwegian emigrants bound for America. In the century following the arrival of these "sloopers," nearly a million more Norwegians journeyed across the Atlantic to take up residence in the United States. The publication of this volume of the Immigrant Heritage of America series coincides with the sesquicentennial of the *Restauration's* voyage, an event commemorated in both Norway and the United States. That Norwegian immigrants and their descendants occupy an important place in Iowa history was illustrated in October, 1975, when His Majesty, Olav V, King of Norway, made the Hawkeye state one of his stops during his sesquicentennial observance tour of the United States.

In the preface to this well-documented study, Arlow W. Andersen acknowledges his indebtedness to his co-workers in the field of immigration history; and throughout he draws heavily upon the works of Theodore C. Blegen, Kenneth O. Bjork, Carlton C. Qualey, Einar Haugen, and other Norwegian-American scholars. Andersen's own contributions to the topic have been considerable. Author of books on the Norwegian-Danish Methodist Church in America and the role of the

Norwegian language press in the United States before and during the Civil War, along with several articles on immigration, his command of the language and the literature reflect his own Norwegian-American heritage and a lengthy career as a historian.

Trying to write the history of a particular ethnic group in America presents formidable problems of organization, especially if one is attempting to cover 150 years of Norwegian-American history in less than 250 pages of text. Andersen chose to divide his study into chapters dealing with "The Land They Left Behind;" the ocean crossing; America and its reception of the immigrants; the immigrants move West; politics, slavery, and the Civil War; Norwegians and reform; religion; education; social and cultural organizations; literature; prominent Norwegian-Americans (Strangely, there is no mention of Norman Borlaug, the Iowa-born agronomist who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970); World War I and its aftermath; and a concluding chapter entitled "America and Norway: Ideas in Transit." The results are uneven because the listing of Norwegian-American achievements in several fields gives an almost encyclopedic tone to some chapters. This, of course, is a mixed blessing, encouraging a pedestrian literary style but greatly enhancing the book's value as a reference work. Overall, the author has fulfilled his relatively modest goals and given the reader a convenient survey of Norwegian-American history. Many Iowa libraries, whether community, school, or church, will benefit by adding this book to their holdings.

—Peter L. Petersen
West Texas State University

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